

Raymore Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting / Luncheon February 22, 2011

- Networking began at 11:30 am / Lunch at 12:00 pm
- Location: Community Bank of Raymore, Raymore, MO
- Welcome: President Bryan Mallory
- Pledge of Allegiance: Barbara Long
- Prayer: Jason Matters
- Lunch catered by Applebee's
- Attendance: 70
- Secretary's Report & Treasurer's Report for January 2011 were reviewed. Stands approved as presented

First-time attendees were invited to stand up and introduce themselves: Pet'e Morgan with Media Transfer

President Mallory introduced Wendy Brown, Chairman of the Membership Committee. Ms. Brown announced the February "Featured Members of the Month": Laurie Bassett (Journalist for The Journal) and Allen Edmonds (Journalist for The Star Herald).

Announcement: If you have your name tag, please notify the Chamber office to let them know you have it and bring it with you to the next meeting. Thank you!

Old Business:

- Dr. Jeff Kyle announced that Raymore's Polar Plunge collected \$14,000.00. Dr. Kyle came in 5th place individually for collections/ donations. He extended his sincere thanks to everyone who supported Special Olympics.

New Business:

- Candidate Forum will be held March 29, 2011, 7:00 pm at the Raymore City Hall. There will be School Board & City Council candidates on hand to answer questions. Brent Ewert will be the moderator.
- Raymore Day @ the K has been set for May 1st (Sunday). This is also Faith & Family Day at the K. The cost per ticket has not been determined at this time. More information later.

Program:

- Victoria Situ-Fansler – Hope Haven

Hope Haven is the only service provider to Cass County and has been in existence since 1995 with a majority of a volunteer staff. Working together to assist women & children who are victims of domestic violence. Hope Haven has served over 11,000 since 1995. They can accommodate 70 -100 woman and 200 – 250 children at a time. It is necessary most months that woman & children in need of this service & protection are having to be turned away. Domestic violence is higher than breast cancer or heart disease in woman's health. Men who are victims of domestic violence are set up with accommodations in hotels or motels. Sexual assault services can now be dealt with in Cass County at Cass Regional Hospital. Last year alone there were 33 cases of sexual assault and over ½ were minors. A Child's Path Back is a program established to help children over-come the hardships of an abusive family environment. Priorities of Hope Haven: 1. Ensuring the safety of survivors & their children 2. Empowering survivors 3. Holding abusers accountable 4. Providing knowledge-based resources & education to survivors & the community 5. Influencing positive societal change

Ongoing Needs: Group & individual support for: *store gift cards for groceries & shelter operations * Food-meats & non-perishable food donations *Diapers / Pull-ups *Storage totes & containers with lids (all sizes/shapes)

*Paper products such as paper towels, toilet, & facial tissue, napkins *Cleaning supplies plus garbage bags, cleaning erasers, cleaners *Transportation & child care *volunteers for maintenance, electrical & carpentry work.

- Maurice Baalman & Shauna Stephenson – Raymore Park Foundation

Began in 2005 from the Raymore Youth Athletic Association to have fund raisers and support the Raymore Parks & Recreation Department. If interested in helping Raymore's parks flourish you can become a member. It's tax deductible. The Foundation has its own Board of Directors & is in complete control of the funds donated or directed toward the Foundation. Members provide direction to the Foundation's Board regarding the use of funds through the election of representatives. The Board of Directors is responsible for selecting the annual campaign projects & setting the annual fundraising target. To join the efforts together with the Raymore Parks and Recreation Board to help Raymore keep pace with their growing park facility needs, call 892-3054 & learn more about how you can help.

- Jenni Beck – Together We Can / YouthFriends Program

Jennie is a Counselor at Raymore Elementary. She sees first-hand the need for mentors and the difference they can make in a child's life. One hour a week is all it takes to make a difference in the life of a young person. Studies show the presence of a positive adult role model in a young person's life builds confidence, encourages kids to set & achieve goals, & helps your people succeed. Share breakfast or lunch, read books, share interests, tutor, provide career insight, – just be a friend to a student (K-12) at a school near your home or work. You can E-Mentor a student by exchanging e-mails once a week. Discuss academic goals, careers, & common interests. You can also become a classroom speaker. Through the classroom speaker's bureau, volunteers introduce students to various fields of work & bring real-world relevance to subjects being taught in classrooms (minimum of 4 presentations per year). To get started 1. Download & complete a Youth-Friends application (available at yourfriends.org) 2. Pick a location & type of mentoring that works best for you 3. Complete a background screening & attend a 2-hour training session (one hour for classroom speakers). On-site training is available for groups.

Thousands of volunteers are needed. It is estimated that in Greater KC, more than 40,000 youth need, or want a mentor but do not have access to one. To get involved or learn more, visit youthfriends.org or call 816-842-7082.

Up-Coming Events:

- Wednesday, February 23 – Cass County Day at the Capitol
- Monday, February 28 – Research Belton Hospital's 3rd Annual "Go Red for Women" Ladies Night Out Event at the High Blue Wellness Center (5:00 – 8:00 pm)
- Thursday, March 10 – Cass County Coalition of Chambers Meeting at 11:45 am. Location to be announced
- Friday, March 11 – Monthly Morning Coffee hosted by the Raymore Park Foundation from 7:30 – 9:00 am. Location to be determined
- Thursday, March 17 – Monthly Board Meeting at Country Club Bank Community Room at noon.
- Tuesday, March 29 – City Council/Raymore-Peculiar School Board Candidate Forum at Raymore City Hall Council Chambers at 7:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned by President Bryan Mallory

Next regular scheduled Membership luncheon will be March 22, 2011 at Community Bank of Raymore. (11:30)